DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 237 103 IR 050 524

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TITLE National and International Information Policies. IST 682, A Graduate Course.
INSTITUTION Syracuse Univ., N.Y. School of Information Studies.
PUB DATE May 83
NOTE 21p.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Materials (For Learner) (051) -- Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Course Descriptions; Developing Nations; Higher Education; *Information Sources; Learning Activities; *Library Education; *Management Information Systems; Objectives; *Organizations (Groups); Policy; *Policy Formation; Public Agencies
IDENTIFIERS *Information Policy; Policy Analysis; Policy Research; Syracuse University NY

ABSTRACT

This course outline begins with a statement of seven objectives which relate to (1) the role of the policy sciences and the policy science literatures; (2) understanding the policy analysis process; (3) identification of major policy issues concerned with information as a resource in economic and social life; (4) application of policy analytical methods to national and international policy issues; (5) the awareness of major public and private organizations that influence information policies; (6) awareness of major research centers, academic departments, programs, and trends in the study of information policies; and (7) the ability to formulate problems and study the role of information policies in national development and productivity. Requirements and guidelines are listed for a policy review project which includes development of a hypothetical proposal for the management of an organization based on an information policy review. A resource guide lists references and information sources for the following topics: the policy process, the policy sciences, national information policies, public agencies, interest groups and public participation, national information policy issues, international information policy issues, countries and areas, and examples of sources for information policy research. (LMM)

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# NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION POLICIES

IST 682

A Graduate Course

Marta L. Dosa

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION STUDIES

May 1983

IR050524

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OBJECTIVES

1. Appreciation of the role of the policy sciences in the family of disciplines; awareness of the policy science literature and the ability to access it as needed.

2. Understanding of the policy analysis process, its goals, instruments, methodologies and problems.

3. Identification of major policy issues related to information as a resource in economic and social life. Defining information, communication, knowledge production, knowledge utilization, technology transfer, etc., as policy targets.

4. Skills in applying policy analytical methods to national and international policy issues, and the ability to work with policy analysts.

5. Awareness of major public and private organizations which influence information policies by legislation, regulations, the judicial process, professional standards, lobbying, citizen participation, etc.

6. Awareness of major research centers, academic departments, programs and trends in the study of information policies.

7. The ability to formulate problems and study the role of information policies in national development and productivity - with emphasis on developing countries.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Course project (Planning, researching, organization, content, presentation) | 50% |
| 2. Participation in class discussions | 25% |
| 3. Integration of readings with the project and discussions | 25% |

POLICY REVIEW PROJECT

- Select the type of organization which is of particular interest to you (e.g. an industrial corporation, business, local government agency, educational institution, research institute, a hospital or other health care facility, a museum).

- As the information specialist (information resource manager, librarian, records manager) of this organization, you have been asked to (a) review the information policies that affect this organization, and (b) present your findings to the management and staff.

- Develop a proposal for the management on your project.

OUTLINE OF THE PROPOSAL

1) Cover letter to the management

2) Justification of the information policy review and expected benefits for the organization

3) Outline of the information activities of the organization

   a) Internal information activities
   with indication of computer, telecommunications or manual operations
   (e.g. Planning and decision information for management, administrative records keeping, reporting, internal communication channels, production- or service-related information, research, staff development and training, in-house information center or library)

   b) External information activities

   (e.g. Data gathering such as market research, client needs assessment, service evaluation; information acquisition such as current awareness, database searches, library acquisitions; public relations; publication and/or broadcast program; public education; relations with governments and other organizations)

4) Broad information policy areas proposed for review

   (e.g. Proprietary information, trade information, public/private interface, data security, privacy, access to information, equity issues, pricing, protection of human subjects in research, the credibility of information)

5) Policy instruments proposed for review

   (e.g. Relevant Congressional and state laws, regulations, executive orders, court decisions, treaties and executive agreements, standards)

6) Proposed mode of presentation of the results of the policy review

(e.g. Report and/or executive summary, presentation to staff meetings, in-house seminar, visuals, presentation to external audiences)

7) Most relevant information resources

a) Sources to be used for the policy review (e.g. Chapters in books, documents, papers, personal interviews, databases)

b) Sources for the systematic monitoring of policy changes (e.g. Government agencies, Congressional committees, public interest or professional organizations, political action committees (PACs), newsletters, legal reporting systems).

RESOURCE GUIDE

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EXAMPLES OF SOURCES FOR INFORMATION POLICY RESEARCH

Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science 3d fl. Z699A1A6

Bulletin of the Copyright Society

Congressional digest (4th floor JK1C74)

Congressional index (Commerce Clearinghouse) (1st fl. Ref. J69C6)

Congressional Information Service/abstracts and index (Doc. Ref. P87J6
1st floor tables)

Congressional Quarterly weekly reports (1st fl. and 4th fl. Ref. JK1C14)

Digest of public general bills and resolutions (1st fl. gov. docs.)

Editorial research reports (1st floor Ref H35 E35)

Journal of communications (P87 J6)

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National journal

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Slip laws (1st floor Ref. KF50U52)

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Newsbank (1st floor, Docs. Ref)

SAGE Abstracts of public administration (4th floor Ref.)

Index to legal periodicals (Law Library)

Examples of law journals:

Federal Communications Bar journal

Journal of contemporary law

Practical lawyer

Antitrust bulletin

American Bar Association journal

Federal Bar journal

Administrative law review

Examples of policy journals

International social science journal
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World affairs